AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A process for the dimensionally-true sintering of ceramic pre-shaped items, said process comprising:

resting a firing material during the sintering on one or more movable supports that suspend or support the firing material during sintering, and ~~not coated with metal or consisting of metal molten at the sinter temperature, which adapt independently to the shrinkage dimensions which occur during the firing process;~~

~~wherein the movable supports comprise~~ are comprising any material which is inert vis-à-vis the firing process and does not result in adhesion to the firing material and does not contaminate the firing material; said movable supports are not coated with metal or consisting of metal molten at the sinter temperature, which adapt independently to the shrinkage dimensions which occur during the firing process;

the movable supports comprising:

a bridge portion that contacts the firing material, and

support rods at each end of the bridge portion that are connected to a base that does not contact the firing material;

wherein said movable supports contact the firing material at a contacting portion and support said firing material during sintering thereof in order to form the ceramic pre-shaped item;

said movable supports are operatively connected to a support structure not contacting the firing material; and

the moveable supports adapt independently to the shrinkage dimensions of the firing material during sintering by moving in the direction of the shrinkage without tipping or deforming the bridge with respect to the support structure without substantial movement with respect to said contacting portion of the firing material.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1, wherein the pre-shaped items are ceramic dental prostheses.

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1, wherein the movable supports are developed as vertically standing or horizontally lying hollow or solid rods and having a cross-section which allows a minimal contact surface with the firing material.

5. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 1, wherein the movable supports have a tip which allows a minimal contact surface with the firing material, and being hollow or solid.

6-9. (**Canceled**)

10. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the firing material rests on supports which has very different physical properties to the firing material itself, wherein there is no contamination or bonding of the firing material with the supports.

11-21. (**Canceled**)

22. (**Withdrawn**) The process according to claim 1, wherein the moveable supports are suspended hooks which support the firing material and the ceramic pre-shaped item during the sintering and said suspended hooks move towards or away from each other as the firing material changes dimensions.

23. (**Withdrawn**) The method according claim 1, wherein the moveable supports are suspending hooks which move toward or away from each other during sintering of

the firing material or ceramic pre-shaped material, wherein the hooks are operatively connected to rollers moveable on a track of the support structure.

24. (**Withdrawn**) The method according claim 1, wherein the moveable supports are S-shaped suspended hooks which support the firing material and ceramic pre-shaped item during the sintering and which move towards or away from each other as the firing material or ceramic pre-shaped item changes dimensions.

25. (**Withdrawn**) The method according claim 23, wherein the movable supports are operatively connected to said rollers so as to be protected by a heat insulator, and wherein said rollers are operatively connected to a mechanical, electronic and/or optical scanning device having sliding bearings which provide for force equalization during sintering.